

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-4390
Magi No.
DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic 223 West Saratoga Street
and/or common Hassan Gentleman Touch Salon

2. Location

street & number 223 W. Saratoga Street ☐ not for publication
city, town Baltimore ☐ vicinity of ☐ congressional district Seventh
state Maryland ☐ county Baltimore

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name 223 W. Saratoga Partnership c/o Steven Rosen
street & number 250 W. Pratt Street, Suite 850 telephone no.:
city, town Baltimore state and zip code MD 21201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds Baltimore City Courthouse SEB2751
street & number 100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610 folio 426
city, town Baltimore state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local
depository for survey records
city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. B-4390

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count: 1

This circa 1875 commercial building faces north on W. Saratoga Street and abuts a partywall building to the east and a small alley to the west. This unit, defined by seams in the brick work and fenestration, has a street frontage of 21'11" and a depth of 100'. The brick is painted white and the trim is black.

The first story has been altered circa 1960-1970. It is divided into four bays. The first contains a glazed door accessing the upper stories. The second and fourth bays contain small display windows with shingled pent roofs and panelled foundations. The third bay contains the glazed door that accesses the first-story commercial space. This door is reached by two stone steps. The transoms over the doors and the display window have been filled in with solid panels. The panel over the main entrance is louvered. The window surrounds, door surrounds, and foundation panels are outlined in back bands that are painted dark brown. A shingled pent roof runs across the width of the first-story facade.

The second story contains a central window. Hinged sidelights flank a three-sided bowed window of large plate glass. A row of seven square transoms runs above the windows, flush with the plane of the facade. The lintel is outlined in header bricks.

The third story has three 2/2 sash windows with stone sills and brick splayed jack arches.

The cornice projects with a dentil course and back band supported by four large scrolled brackets. Two rows of miniature scrolled brackets run below followed by a stringcourse of raised molding. The large scrolled brackets drop down to form pendants dividing the cornice into three bays. A second stringcourse of foliated molding runs under the drops.

The west wall faces the alley. It has four windows in the second and third stories towards the south edge of the wall.

The interior is finished with wallboard and acoustic tile ceiling. The plan is a long open rectangle.

8. Significance

Survey No. B-4390

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	unknown
and/or Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This three-bay, three-story building is a good example of speculative commercial block construction along Saratoga Street during the third quarter of the nineteenth century. The building's style and massing are representative of the late nineteenth-century rowhouses and partywall structures on the block. Architectural historian Richard Longstreth writes, "the gradual abandonment of the shop-house as the dominant form of commercial architecture was due to the ever-increasing demands for trade and professional services along with a corresponding increase in land values, all of which fostered the design of buildings used entirely for commercial purposes."¹ In this case, the commercial solution was to retain the basic shop-house form but create a commercial second-story reading. The tripartite window in the second story, complete with its millwork lintel and corner brackets, is an early Victorian experiment in commercial architecture. The large expanse of framed plate glass and row of transoms invoked the nineteenth-century street-level shopfront and could be used as display windows for the second-story merchant's wares. While the overall shell of the building retains its nineteenth-century shop-house form, the tripartite window shows an attempt to make a commercial statement from a residential building type. Before there was a clear definition of a commercial building type there was this early, experimental form. The presence of two entrances indicates that the building was constructed to hold more than one tenant, another sign that the old shop-house idea had passed. The third story, however, could have still been used as dwelling quarters.

A few elements of Victorian fashion are still visible in the cornice. The cornice's overhanging eaves are supported by scrolled brackets punctuated by elongated brackets that define the bays. The back band is further embellished with a second row of brackets. An ornamental cornice was a common way of decoratively capping the top of a building.

¹ Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street, pp. 24, 29.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-4390

Richard Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street (Washington: Preservation Press, 1987).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Baltimore East Quad

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification _____

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane Shaw, Architectural Historianorganization CHAP, Room 1037date December 21, 1991street & number ~~XXXXXXXX~~ 417 E. Fayette Street telephone 301-396-4856city or town Baltimorestate MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
301-514-7600

B-4390
223 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD
Section 8 Significance
8.1

The alterations to the first story indicate that the commercial needs and aesthetics changed over the century. The circa 1960s-1970s facade shows an attempt to modernize the facade without spending a lot of money. The rather cheap nature of the alteration stands in contrast to the showy facades of the Art Deco or even 1950s period.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization:
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
Modern Period, 1930-present, alterations

Historic Period Themes:
Architecture
Economics

Resource Type:
Building

Historic Environment:
Urban

Historic Function and Use:
Commercial

Known Design Source:
None

ST.

W. CLAY

ST.

AVE.

PARK

598

(599)

WARD 4 SECTION 10
BLOCK 597

DATE **Nov. 1966**

THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED
FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76(d) OF THE CITY CHARTER
IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER
SOURCES AND IS NOT AN AUTHENTIC SURVEY.

B-4390

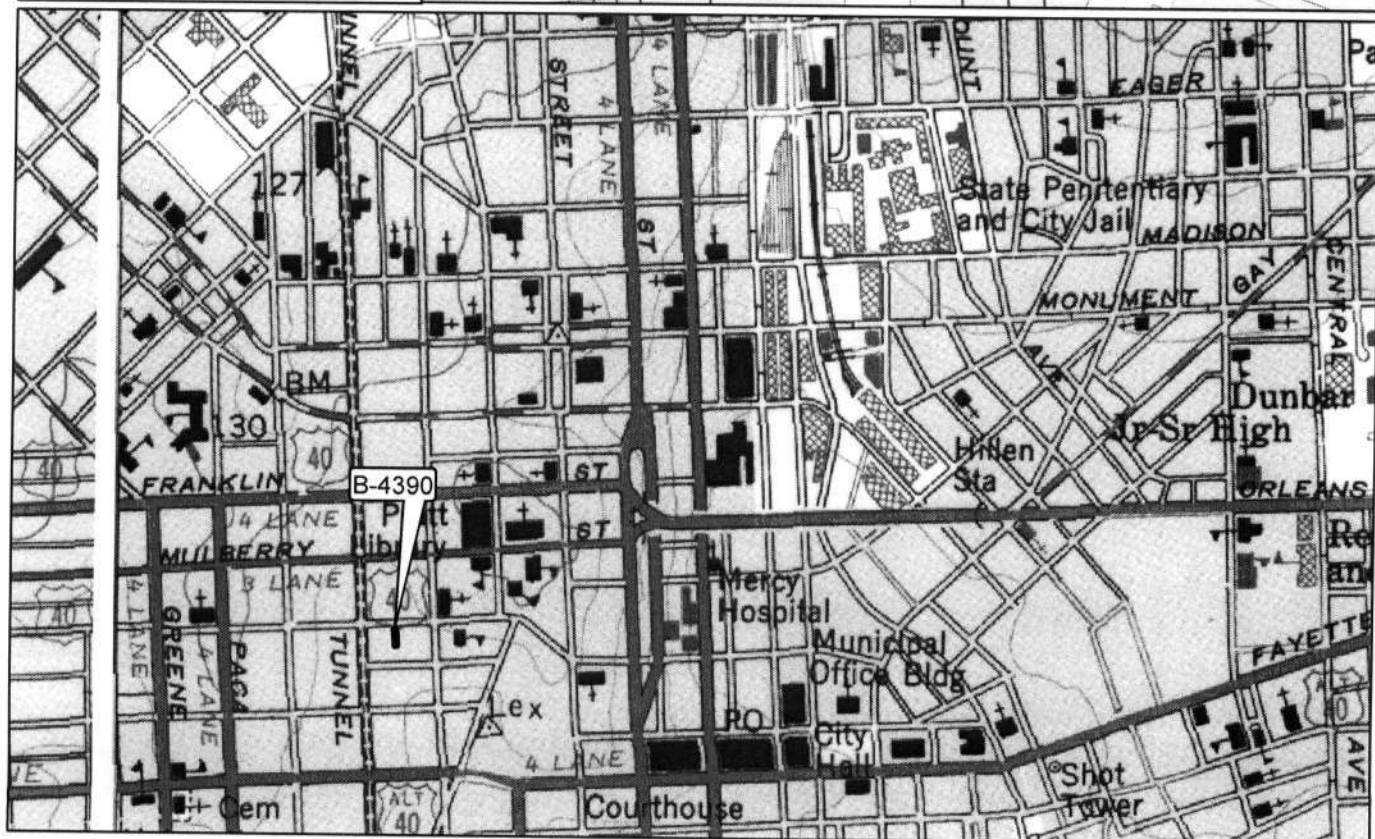
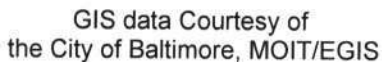
Hassan Gentleman Touch Salon

223 W. Saratoga Street

Block 0597, Lot 012

Baltimore City

Baltimore East Quad.





B-4390

223 W. Saratoga St.

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/9/

Maryland SHPO

Facade, north elevation

1/1